

Reading Routines at Home

6th Grade

Coates E. S. 2020

Dear Parents,

It is a great honor to partner with you in your child's education! Central to your child's education is the ability to read and think critically. In our Home-School Compact, crafted through a series of parent/teacher meetings, we agreed that:

- Parents would promote reading skills and establish a reading routine for their children at home.
- Teachers and staff would teach reading skills and provide families with resources and support for promoting literacy at home.

This short guide was created to help you understand what reading looks like in sixth grade and provides strategies for creating reading routines at home.

Contents

- Identify Books 6th graders should be reading at the beginning of the year
- Identify Books 6th graders should be reading at the end of the year
- How to get there?
 - What we do at school
 - What you can do at home (your routine)
- What if you're already reading above grade level?



At the **beginning of 6th grade**, your child should be reading a level 50 book. Below is an excerpt from Esperanza Rising by Pam Nuno Ryan, which is a level 50 book.

1924

“Our land is alive, Esperanza,” said Papa, taking her small hand as they walked through the gentle slopes of the vineyard. Leafy green vines draped the arbors and the grapes were ready to drop. Esperanza was six years old and loved to walk with her papa through the winding rows, gazing up at him and watching his eyes dance with love for the land.

“This whole valley breathes and lives,” he said, sweeping his arm toward the distant mountains that guarded them. “It gives us the grapes and then they welcome us.” He gently touched a wild tendril that reached into the row, as if it had been waiting to shake his hand. He picked up a handful of earth and studied it. “Did you know that when you lie down on the land, you can feel it breathe? That you can feel its heart beating?”

Chapter books and novels or informational text

Often historical or distant settings so the reader must understand different customs and ways of speaking

Many new vocabulary words- the student must use context clues and background knowledge for comprehension

Find more books on this website

<https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/level-u>

What if my child starts the year below this level?

First, do not stress or make your child feel bad if they are not reading on grade level. This often leads to a child shutting down and avoiding reading. So what can you do?

At Home:

- Encourage a love of reading by finding books your child can enjoy on his or her own and that you can enjoy together.
- Immerse your child in literacy by reading to them and with them, and by listening to them read. Remember, even if they aren't reading on grade level **yet**, they will eventually be able to, and may even surpass it, by discovering the joy of books and by practicing a little bit every day in a quiet environment.
- Remember, your teacher will be working with your child to address the necessary skills to improve his/her reading level as well.
- Let your child choose ANY book to read. Graphic novels (comics),

At the **end of 6th grade**, your child should be reading a level 60 book. Below is an excerpt from The Secret Hum of a Daisy by Tracey Holczer, a level 60 book.

Mama said she started living the day I was born, and when I was little, I took that as the literal truth. It was only ever the two of us, so I figured the stork dropped us down as a pair. The very first picture in our family photo album was of her, sitting up straight in the white sheets of a hospital bed, looking down at my little pink face and curly brown hair like she couldn't quite figure out where I came from but she was happy just the same. No childhood pictures of her. None of her pregnant. Just her and me in that hospital bed, dropped down together from some kind of heaven.

When I got to school, of course, I saw that most people had all manner of relatives. I didn't have to change my theory much, though. I decided that me and Mama were alone because the other pieces of our family broke off somewhere on the way down, and if Mama kept moving us around like she did, we'd run into them somewhere.

Language is often flowery (poetic), abstract, or can contain various dialects.

Conflicts are often life and death or grapple with complex world issues. Many books are "coming of age" books – meaning the character faces challenges that move him from childhood to a sense of self sufficiency.

Fantasy is a popular genre at this level.

Find more books on this website

<https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/level-x>

How do I find out my child's reading level? Ask your child's teacher.

Should s/he only read books on this level?

No. It is important to read easier books to improve reading rate and expression. It is also important to read harder books when the topic really interests your child.

What if my child is already reading this level?

If your child is reading above this level, your teacher will work with your child to continue to grow as a reader. At home, encourage your child to choose novels and nonfiction books. At this point, encourage any reading that interests your child.

At School, we follow the Reading Workshop Model

- Appropriate Level
 - Guided Reading
 - Teacher Modeling
 - Book Clubs
 - Comprehension Practice
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At Home - Establish a Reading Routine

- Make reading a fun, enjoyable part of every day!
- Provide a quiet place to read independently for 20-30 minutes a day to build reading stamina. (No distractions). It's OK to read books online. See the Coates Reading website for good online options.
- Help your child make inferences and draw conclusions by asking these questions:
 - Why do you think the character made the decisions he made?
 - The author doesn't tell you everything. What did you figure out on your own? What part of the book helped you understand that?
 - How did you use what you knew to help you understand the book?
- Writing activities can follow reading:
 - Write a new chapter from a different characters' point of view.
 - Write a letter to the main character.
 - Write an alternate ending to the book.

